

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 31-44 are pending in this application. Claims 45-48 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-30 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

At page 2 of the Action, the Examiner objects to informalities in the specification. The Examiner's careful consideration of the specification is appreciated, and the specification has been amended to obviate the informalities.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Action, the Examiner objects to claims 32-33. The Examiner's careful attention to the claim language is appreciated. Claims 32-33 are amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 44-48 stand rejected under 35 USC 112(2) as indefinite. The Examiner's careful consideration of, and various suggested changes to, the phraseology of the claims is appreciated. Claim 44 is amended to not recite the term "simple" and is, therefore, broader. Claims 45-48 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 31-33 and 43-48 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Jones et al. (i.e., U.S. Pat. No. 6,078,595, hereinafter Jones). Claims 31 and 45-48 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 32 and 43-44 are amended to depend from allowable claim 34. Claim 33 depends from claim 32.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the section bridging pages 4-5 of the Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 34-42 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This indication of allowable subject matter is very much appreciated. Claim 34 is rewritten in independent form and is, therefore, not narrowed. Claims 35-42 depend from amended claim 34. As noted above, claims 32-33 and 43-44 now depend from amended claim 34.

Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. In view of the above, all the claims are considered patentable and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (at direct line 512-394-0118) for prompt action in the event any issues remain that prevent the allowance of any pending claims.

No fee is due for filing this Reply because it is being filed within the shortened statutory period for response as set in the Office Action dated October 4, 2004.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3204 of John Bruckner PC.

Respectfully submitted,

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